

The American Observer

A free, virtuous and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends. — James Monroe

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Ways Are Sought to Improve U. S. Health

Despite Rapid Progress Made, Toll of Sickness Is Great Throughout Nation

MEDICAL CARE INSUFFICIENT

Millions of American Families Lack Means of Safeguarding Their Health Adequately

On the need for making America healthy there is no difference of opinion. A strong, healthy people is far more likely to be efficient and progressive than a people whose vitality is sapped by disease. Preventable sickness and death bring sorrow and heartache; they also involve a huge economic loss for the country as a whole.

It has been estimated that families with incomes of less than \$2,500 suffer a money loss of about \$2,400,000,000 a year from ill health. Of this \$1,500,000,000 goes for doctors and medicine, while \$900,000,000 is lost in wages. The total amounts to about 10 cents on every dollar they receive in income throughout the year.

We like to think of America as a healthy country. Compared to most nations it is fortunate in this respect. But it still has a tremendous amount of unnecessary sickness and death. In the winter of 1935-1936 a survey was conducted under the auspices of the United States Public Health Service to discover just how much illness we have. It was found that one person out of every 22 was sick on a typical winter day. At any one time approximately 6,000,000 persons were unable to work, attend school, or carry on normal activities on account of illness, injury, or defect resulting from disease or accident.

A Healthy America?

About a million and a half of this total on any one day are laid up because of colds, "flu," pneumonia, or tonsillitis. An even larger number—nearly two and a half million—suffer from chronic diseases such as rheumatism, heart disease, cancer, and tuberculosis. The rest are laid up by accidents, contagious diseases, stomach ailments, or other acute illnesses.

The total loss to the nation from illnesses lasting a week or longer amounts to nearly one and a quarter billion days a year lost from work or school.

Some sickness is, of course, inescapable. Medical science has made great progress in recent years, but it is still far from its goal of preventing all illness. But a very large part of America's 20,000,000 cases of sickness each year could be prevented. This may be seen from the fact that our poor families are ill much more frequently than the well-to-do, and their illnesses last much longer. The National Health Survey showed that the unemployed were twice as likely to be ill as employed workers. Families on relief had 57 per cent more sickness lasting a week or longer than families making over \$3,000 a year.

We must be careful in interpreting these figures. One reason that the unemployed are sick more often is that sick men cannot very well hold down jobs. And many families are on relief because of sickness. Yet the figures show that the amount of sickness declines steadily as we pass from low to high-income groups.

Lack of money does not in itself, of course, cause illness. But lack of the things that money can buy is undoubtedly responsible for much ill health. For ex-

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THE MAP OF EUROPE IS BEING CONSTANTLY REDRAWN

Obeying the Law

By WALTER E. MYER

"You ought to obey the law—every law, even the traffic regulations and the rules of the school." Such advice is often given, and few will question its wisdom. And yet law is frequently violated. There is more disobedience, less real regard for law in America than in any other great nation. This seems rather a strange thing. One might expect people to be scornful of laws imposed upon them by dictators. They might then excuse themselves on the ground that only by disobedience could they assert their rights. They might claim they were not bound to respect laws in the making of which they had no part. But in the United States laws come from the people themselves or their representatives. There seems little excuse for the disregard of laws which the people make and which they may change at will. All people do not approve every law, to be sure, but a majority makes or unmakes laws, and, if we accept the principle of democratic government, we must all agree to abide by whatever the majority does. Otherwise a democracy cannot be a success. Why is there such disrespect for law in the United States? It must be that many people, while agreeing in a general way that laws should be obeyed, do not take the necessity of obedience seriously. Why, they may ask, should we obey law at all times?

There are several good reasons. One is that it is safer to do so. A person who violates law endangers his own security and happiness. He is likely to get into trouble. He does not intend to do so when he begins by violating the rules of the class or the school. He thinks little about it when he disobeys traffic regulations or other city ordinances. But these violations tend to break down regard for law, and it is easier as time goes on to violate other rules and laws. Eventually the law violator, without thinking of himself as a very bad person, may offend in such a way as to cause himself and his family much trouble and grief. The surest safeguard against such a thing is to get into the habit of obeying law on every occasion.

There are other reasons for support of the law, however, aside from fear of consequences. There is the real satisfaction which comes to any person when he knows that he is playing the game of life fairly and honestly; when he obeys the rules, and helps to make his home, his school, or his community what it ought to be. Life is a cooperative affair. We get along well only if each individual fits harmoniously into the general scheme of things. Civilized living together comes only from making general rules of conduct, and there can be no progress unless all or nearly all the people are intelligent and high-minded enough to conform.

Allies to Rely Upon Economic Blockade

British Navy and Economic Power Are Chief Allied Weapons in War Against Germany

MANY DIFFICULTIES SEEN

Strength of German Economy Rules Out Possibility of Any Short and Easy Conflict

As noted in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER a few weeks ago, reports from Europe indicate that Great Britain and France are preparing to rely upon a large-scale economic blockade of Germany as their principal weapon in the present war. The cessation of most French attacks upon the western front as soon as Poland collapsed has been interpreted by military observers as proof that the French only initiated these attacks for the purpose of relieving Poland by forcing Germany to divert troops from the eastern to the western front. The end of war in Poland rendered these attacks no longer necessary, with the result that today there is little military action.

What, then, is this weapon with which the Allied powers propose to defeat Germany? The British naval blockade as constituted today is far greater in scope than the blockade of 100 years ago. In those days a blockade consisted of little more than a fleet of armed sailing craft strung out in a half-circle around some port or small stretch of coast, aiding land forces in a limited campaign to capture a single city or fortress. Later blockades tended to cover an entire coast in order to supplement large-scale military operations. By cutting off the enemy's military supplies, food, and fuel, the blockade rendered the army great help.

The British Blockade

The British naval blockade of today, however, is something new. It is not a subsidiary arm of land forces. It does not merely supplement military action. The order of importance is, in fact, reversed. The functions of the Allied armies and air forces are subordinated to it. They are to hold off German raids by land, air, and sea until the blockade has done its work. Only then, presumably, will they initiate a vigorous offensive.

The focal point of this naval cordon is the North Sea, the only body of water through which German shipping enjoys access to the seas of the world. British patrols from Dover and Portsmouth to the French coast, and from Scotland to the Norwegian coast, effectively bottle up German shipping in this sea. The blockade is not limited to this region, however. It extends to all parts of the world, from the busy ports of Singapore and the Mediterranean to the loneliest stretches of the South Atlantic and mid-Pacific.

The first objective of this blockade—that of driving all German merchant shipping from the seas—was simple, and was speedily executed. With the single exception of the Baltic, the narrow entrance to which has been rendered impassable to British naval craft by mines, German shipping has indeed vanished from the high seas.

The second blockade objective—that of preventing vital war materials from reaching Germany—is more complicated and difficult to realize. To accomplish this the British have drawn up two lists of contraband, or goods which they will not permit to go through the blockade to Germany, no

(Concluded on page 3)

- Straight Thinking -

VI. Begging the Question

HERE is a quotation from "How to Think Straight," by Robert H. Thouless: "If a man is accused of poisoning his wife, the prosecuting attorney should not say, 'This scoundrel who hounded his wife to her grave.' The question to be decided is whether the man *did* poison his wife. If he did, he is a scoundrel undoubtedly, but calling him a scoundrel does not help to decide the question of fact. On the contrary, it makes a correct decision more difficult by rousing emotions of hatred for the accused in the minds of the jury. Another obvious objection to use of the word 'scoundrel' before the man is convicted, which puts it in the ranks of 'crooked thinking,' is that it 'begs the question' or assumes what is to be proved. The man is a scoundrel only if he is guilty, and yet the word has been used in the course of an argument to prove that he is guilty."

One can find instances of "begging the question" almost every time he reads a newspaper. Senators who oppose the repeal of the arms embargo call themselves the "peace bloc." They assume that keeping the arms embargo means peace and that the repeal of the embargo is more likely to mean war. Now this may or may not be true. But it is one of the points to be threshed out in the debate. It has certainly not been proved in advance of the debate. The advocates of repeal claim that their plan is the one most likely to insure peace. For either side to proclaim itself in advance the "peace bloc" is therefore to beg the question.

The other side in the embargo repeal fight is also guilty of begging the question. Advocates of repeal speak of themselves as friends of "true neutrality." Now whether repeal is more genuine neutrality than the keeping of the embargo would be is one of the points at issue in the debate. And when any group assumes in advance that its course is true neutrality it is begging the question.

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF MARCH 3, 1933, OF THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, PUBLISHED WEEKLY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR (EXCEPT TWO ISSUES IN DECEMBER AND THREE ISSUES FROM THE MIDDLE OF AUGUST TO THE FIRST ISSUE IN SEPTEMBER), AT WASHINGTON, D. C., FOR SEPTEMBER 27, 1939.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the District aforesaid, personally appeared Walter E. Myer, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Editor of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 411, Postal Laws and Regulations, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, and business manager are: Publisher, Civic Education Service, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; Editor, Walter E. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; Business Manager, Ruth G. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

2. That the owners are Walter E. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.; and Ruth G. Myer, 744 Jackson Place, Washington, D. C.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: none.

WALTER E. MYER, Editor
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 27th day of September 1939.
Julian E. Caraballo
Notary Public, District of Columbia.
My Commission expires February 15, 1942.

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It is not wrong for friends of the arms embargo to try to convince the public that keeping the embargo is the best road to peace. They are to be criticized only when, by adopting a slogan like "peace bloc," they try to get the public to accept them as the true peace advocates without waiting for argument. A similar criticism may be made of the other side because of their begging the question about true neutrality.

If a Republican campaign orator makes an impassioned plea for liberty and for "old-fashioned Americanism" and then calls upon his hearers to defeat Roosevelt, he is begging the question. He is assuming that Roosevelt is an enemy of old-fashioned Americanism, when that is a point to be proved, a charge about which there is a conflict of opinion.

If a Democratic orator makes an impassioned plea for the "underprivileged" and then says, "Keep Roosevelt in power," he is begging the question, for there is a difference of opinion as to whether the underprivileged will best be served by keeping Roosevelt in power.

When you read newspapers or listen to discussions among your friends, you will find many instances of begging the question. Be on the lookout for them.

Vocabulary Quiz

(See page 8, column 4, for answers)

Choose in each case the lettered word which fits most appropriately into the sentence preceding it.

1. He is rude and has no knowledge of the _____ of civilized living. (a) ambiguities, (b) hardships, (c) amenities, (d) anachronisms.

2. She was _____ but the lack of money never bothered her. (a) impeccable, (b) impervious, (c) imperative, (d) impecunious.

3. It is hard to _____ an angry child. (a) mesmerize, (b) marshal, (c) mollify, (d) maul.

4. Burning a wound with a hot iron or caustic is called _____ and prevents blood poisoning. (a) singeing, (b) scalding, (c) amputating, (d) cauterizing.

5. A _____ is a long, blunt needle. (a) awl, (b) bodkin, (c) crochet hook, (d) anvil.

What the Magazines Say

LOOK from the European headlines to the youth of America. . . . The dread fact of a world war throws into relief the whole picture of education," write the editors of *Survey Graphic* in the October issue built around the theme "Schools: The Challenge of Democracy to Education." This education issue, second in a series "Calling America," is a comprehensive and thoughtful collection of articles from well-known educators, philosophers, and critics. In planning it, the edi-



tors have attempted to present the broad philosophical problems and trends behind American education as well as specific difficulties and evidences of progress. Beulah Amidon, one of the editors, sums up the purpose of the whole issue when she writes:

"Here are concerns more enduring than military communiqués and diplomatic moves. For the strengths and the weaknesses of the democratic way of life lie within our borders not outside. Mightier than armies with banners, the quiet, undramatic forces of education are the safeguards of freedom, tolerance, human growth."

The contrast between education and its purposes in the United States and education in a dictatorship leads Eduard C. Lindeman, a noted philosopher, to attempt an article called, "The Goal of American Education." Of this goal he says:

"I hope educators will not make the mistake of assuming that education is for democracy. In reality, education of the highest type is democracy because individual develop-



CLINIC DOCTOR

GALLOWAY

Rorty Gives One Side of Medical Controversy in Bristling Volume

IT is undoubtedly true that more attention has been given during the last 10 years to the problem of meeting the medical needs of the American people than during the rest of our national history put together. Nation-wide attention was focused upon the seriousness of the problem when the Committee on the Costs of Medical Care, an expert group which had spent four years studying the entire problem, published its report. The Committee pointed out that even during the most prosperous period in our national history, there was a large volume of unmet medical need. The Committee recommended, among other things, a system of voluntary health insurance as one means of dealing with this vital problem. It did not go so far as to advocate a system of compulsory health insurance.

Already the fight over health insurance has begun. Voluntary schemes of providing medical and hospital care by means of group payments have sprung up in dozens of cities. A large body of opinion in this country has come out strongly for a compulsory system of health insurance, carried out under the direction of the fed-

eral government. The most effective and most vocal opponents of all such proposals are organized medicine—the doctors who are combined in the American Medical Association. The A.M.A. has consistently fought group practices, contending that group medicine would bring doctors under political control and undermine the efficiency of the profession.

It is with this fight that James Rorty deals in his bristling volume "American Medicine Mobilizes" (New York: W. W. Norton, \$3). Mr. Rorty is no friend of the American Medical Association and has long been one of its most outspoken critics in magazines and newspaper articles. Consequently, one cannot expect from him a detached and impartial analysis of the issues involved in the health insurance fight. He is unwilling to recognize the validity of certain of the arguments of the A.M.A.

Thus forewarned, the reader may examine Mr. Rorty's book for what it is: a forceful statement for the case for compulsory health insurance. He builds up his case by an exhaustive analysis of the health of the nation and of the inadequacy of the fulfillment of its medical needs. Many of the cardinal facts about the distribution of medical care, set forth elsewhere in this issue of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER, are clearly elucidated by Mr. Rorty. He examines various of the schemes of group hospitalization and of cooperative medicine—practices which have been branded as "socialized medicine."

By far the most biting chapters of this book are those which attack the policies of the A.M.A. They constitute probably the most stinging indictment of the organization that has yet appeared. Mr. Rorty's principal target is Dr. Morris Fishbein, who has been largely responsible for the policies of the Association. His charge is that Dr. Fishbein has converted the A.M.A. into a militant pressure group determined to resist any change in the interest of the public at large. It is Mr. Rorty's contention that a virtual dictatorship has been established over the 119,000 doctors who belong to the Association.

But there are many straws in the wind which Mr. Rorty regards as significant. There have been several minor insurrections against the policies of the national organization by state branches which have advocated different measures. Other national organizations of physicians, such as the American College of Surgeons and the American Hospital Association, have opposed the policies of the A.M.A. American medicine is becoming more sharply divided over this question.

Mr. Rorty's book is itself symbolic of the present trend. It is an attempt to crystallize the opinion of one group in this controversy. The author has a definite thesis to put across to the reader, and his book is thus in the nature of a crusade. Those who oppose his views are equally strong-willed and convinced of the justice of their position.

Possible Effects of British Blockade on Reich Studied

(Concluded from page 1, column 4)

matter who carries them. Absolute contraband is supposed to consist exclusively of articles of war, such as powder, shrapnel, and bullets. Ships carrying this brand of contraband are liable to confiscation along with their cargoes, if caught.

Conditional contraband, on the other hand, embraces materials which, while necessary for military purposes, are also needed for civilian use. In this category one would ordinarily find wool, fuel, food, clothing, and so on. Ships carrying conditional contraband are not liable to confiscation, but they are stopped and brought into British ports while the contraband is removed by British authorities who turn it over to a British prize court, which later decides whether the owner is entitled to compensation or not. The contraband system seldom fails to involve the blockading power in bitter disputes with neutrals over what is, and what is not, contraband.

German Resistance

To resist this manner of warfare Germany will undoubtedly use her great air force in countless raids against Allied naval units and positions. Her magnificent army may swing around either end of the French Maginot Line in a powerful effort to force a military decision before the full effects of the blockade can make themselves felt. In the meantime, German submarine and ocean raiders carry on a limited counter-blockade against Allied shipping which serves at least to divert naval units for the purpose of hunting them down.

Entirely apart from whatever may happen on the high seas, however, the ultimate success or failure of the blockade can be measured only in terms of Germany's capacity to carry on in spite of it. To what degree can Germany's internal economy be injured? How long will it take for the blockade to impose its maximum effects upon this economy?

First of all, it should be noted that only 40 per cent of Germany's total imports come from overseas. The naval blockade, therefore, cannot easily affect more than two-fifths of Germany's inbound commerce. It cannot prevent Germans from obtaining goods from the small states to the north and east, or from Russia or Italy. Even so, 40 per cent is a large margin of imports. Given the proper circumstances, it might be large enough to decide the issue.

Although Germany lacks a number of necessary materials, she will not be found very weak on the home front. She maintains a well-integrated, disciplined system of transport, manufacturing, communication, and agriculture. Having enjoyed a good harvest this year, she produced most (about 85 per cent) of her agricultural sup-

plies, and will probably be in a position to obtain most of her additional needs from nearby states. There is a shortage of meat and fats which may prove dangerous, or even fatal in time, but it is not pressing at the moment, and Germans have been living on reduced rations for so long that they are used to it. Germany produces machinery, chemicals, lignite, potash, graphite, and magnesite in quantities sufficient for her own needs. At the moment there is a shortage of coal due to a scarcity of labor. This also may prove to be serious in time, but it is not due to a shortage of coal stocks, for Germany is rich in them. Sulphur, zinc, mercury, lead, and perhaps aluminum, the Germans can probably purchase from Italy or from neighboring states.

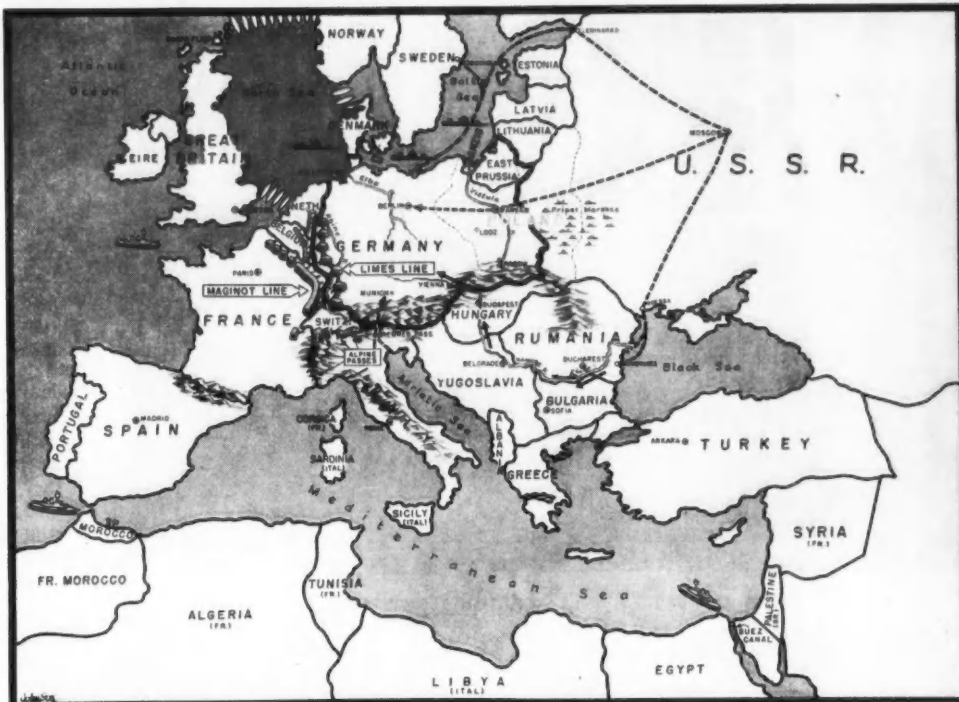
Vital Materials

As regards some other vital materials, however, the problem is more serious. Germans lack manganese, essential in the manufacture of steel; chromite, used in the manufacture of tools and corrosion-resisting steels, armor plate and projectiles; tungsten, necessary in the manufacture of armaments and munitions, tool and alloy steels; tin, needed for plating, solder, and munitions containers; mica, for condensers, radio tubes, and spark plug insulations; antimony, an important ingredient in the making of type metal, glass, bearings, battery plates, shrapnel balls, bullets, and primers; and phosphates, for artificial fertilizer to keep crops growing. Germany produces only 15 per cent of her copper. Only a small percentage of her needs may be supplied from the continent. She has relied upon imports from overseas for two-thirds of her purchases of this metal.

In the case of some of these essentials, Germany has accumulated large reserve stores sufficient to last for as long as one or two years. This is true in the case of tin, manganese, oil, and probably rubber. In the case of others, German scientists have devised substitutes which can be extracted from materials produced at home. In a number of instances very satisfactory results have been attained, but usually at great cost and in insufficient quantity. The Germans manufacture a synthetic, or substitute rubber, for instance, but it amounts only to 30 per cent of their needs, forcing them to rely upon overseas sources (mostly controlled by Britain and her friends) for the remaining 70 per cent—a fact which may prove to be serious later, since rubber is urgently needed by a country with such a large mechanized army as has Germany. Oil can be extracted from coal, but once again only at great cost and by a slow process. It takes

from four to five tons of coal to produce one ton of oil. Substitutes for cotton, wool, and coffee have enjoyed greater success. But there are two principal materials which are demanded in such quantity that substitutes for them will never suffice. They are iron ore and oil.

Although Germany is one of the world's greatest steel producers, she is lacking in iron ore. Before the World War, and during it, her hungry steel centers depended upon the iron



CAN GERMANY OBTAIN ADEQUATE SUPPLIES ELSEWHERE TO WITHSTAND THE EFFECT OF THE BLOCKADE?

mines of Lorraine. But with that region now an integral part of France, Germany is able to produce only one-fifth of her needs. During the last few years she has depended upon France, and upon Swedish Lapland for about 80 per cent of her iron imports.

With the overseas and French iron supplies now closed to them, the Germans would like to double or triple their purchases in Sweden, but this they cannot do, because the Swedish government is preparing to establish a quota system which will restrain Germany from obtaining an amount exceeding her average purchases during the last 10 years—which will amount to about 5,500,000 tons, or just about one-quarter of all German iron imports last year.

The Problem of Oil

Even more serious is the situation regarding oil, that fluid without which no plane could leave the ground, no submarine could leave its base, no tanks, automobiles, or machinery of any sort could run at all. High-class airplane gasoline, fuel oils, lubricating oils all come under this category. Germany's absolute minimum requirements of this fuel amount to 12,600,000 metric tons yearly, although they have been estimated as high as 15 and 20 million tons. In normal times Germany produces about four or five million tons, and imports four to five million tons, about 90 per cent of which comes from the United States, Mexico, Venezuela, and Rumania. In wartime, of course, consumption of this fuel nearly doubles. Aircraft constantly in the sky, mechanized divisions on the move, naval craft steaming under forced draft—all consume enormous quantities of oil. Germany has about two million tons in reserve stores. She will need to import perhaps eight million tons during the coming year, and even more after that. Where will she get it?

Rumania offers one possibility, although not an entirely satisfactory one. Rumania produces about 6,600,000 tons of oil yearly. If this entire amount were added to German production, it would amount to about two-thirds of Germany's needs. But this brings up the question—how is Germany to get all of Rumania's production? The Rumanian wells are owned largely by British and American interests, which are not particularly interested in selling oil to Hitler. Apart from that, however, Germany will either have to pay for what she buys, or attempt to take over the wells by force. The former course presents difficulties inasmuch as Germany has very little gold, and her industrial structure is being driven at such a furious pace to produce munitions and supplies for the military machine, that steel, machine tools, farm machinery, and such other goods as Germany usually uses as payment for raw materials, cannot be spared. If, on the other hand, the Ger-

mans should attack Rumania, they would invite the destruction of the wells by the Rumanians. This happened during the World War, with the result that Germany was unable to produce more than 1,240,000 tons from the Rumanian fields in the two years 1917-1918.

Russia's Position

There remains the possibility of obtaining oil from Russia, which produces what is for Europe an enormous quantity of this fluid—28,500,000 tons yearly. But the Soviet Union, which is itself undergoing a huge industrialization and militarization program, uses nearly all this oil for its own needs, exporting only between 940,000 and 1,500,000 tons each year. The fact that the Soviet Union is now in a state of semi-mobilization means that it will need even more of its own oil production, and will probably export less in the future.

But the Soviet Union is a great question mark in eastern Europe. Its natural resources are so vast that it probably could—if it really wanted to see France and England defeated—furnish the Germans with practically all the resources they need, excepting nickel and rubber. It would cost the Soviet Union a great deal to do this, since it would virtually tie Russia to the German military machine. For this reason, it is thought unlikely that Stalin will make any move to support Germany on a large scale. Still, if he wishes to do so, he is in a position to give enough support to Germany to reduce the effect of the British naval blockade to a considerable degree.

The same is true of other neighboring states. In the last war, the British learned that Germany's trade with neighboring countries increased enormously just as the blockade began to cut off its overseas imports. To combat this danger, the British Ministry of Economic Warfare has been organized to set in motion a huge financial and economic drive which will be discussed later in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.

Questions and References

1. To what degree do you think German internal economy will be affected by the naval blockade alone?
 2. In what way is Sweden important to Germany at this time?
 3. What is the difference between absolute and conditional contraband?
 4. Why does oil play such an important part in a modern war?
 5. How do the Germans obtain oil at home, and where are they likely to find wartime supplies abroad?
- (a) Will the Blockade Succeed? by F. Sternberg. *The Nation*, September 23, 1939, pp. 317-320. (b) The War Behind the War, by R. T. Ely. *Current History*, October 1939, pp. 25-28. (c) The Invisible War, by Alfred Vagts. *The New Republic*, October 11, 1939, pp. 260-263. (d) Financing the War; Powers to Depend Heavily on Rigid Internal Economy. *Newsweek*, September 18, 1939, pp. 54-56. (e) Behind the Guns, by K. Hutchison. *The Nation*, September 2, 1939, pp. 245-246.

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PRIVATION ONCE MORE
With ration cards, Germans are obliged to live on a scanty diet.



THE MEMBERS OF THE SUPREME COURT VISIT THE WHITE HOUSE

Prior to the opening of each session of the Supreme Court it is customary for the justices to pay their respects to the President. Left to right: Solicitor General Jackson; Justices Frankfurter, Black, Stone, Chief Justice Hughes, Justices Roberts, Reed, Douglas, and Attorney General Murphy. Justice Butler is ill and Justice McReynolds did not appear.

DOMESTIC

National Scene

Purely domestic problems may crop up later in the Senate or the House of Representatives, but so far Washington news has been confined primarily to the European war and its effects on the United States. In the Senate, there has been evidence that the debate over changes in the Neutrality Act has lost much of its fire. Most of the arguments on both sides have been given, and the majority of the members appear to have made up their minds already, or are waiting to hear further from their constituents. But as the legislators will wish an opportunity to support their views publicly, the debate may continue for several weeks more. It is unlikely, however, to change many votes, and the administration forces say they are assured of enough votes to lift the embargo and substitute the cash-and-carry plan.

Meanwhile, on the diplomatic front, the State Department announced that it would



LEADING ISOLATIONISTS

Senator Hiram Johnson (left) of California, and Senator Nye of North Dakota, two of the leaders in the fight to prevent repeal of the embargo. Senator Nye made one of the early speeches against embargo repeal. Senator Johnson is scheduled to close the Senate debate.

continue to recognize the government of Poland. Secretary of State Cordell Hull said that "mere seizure of territory . . . does not extinguish the legal existence of a government." The action was similar to that taken in the cases of Manchuria, Czechoslovakia, Albania, Austria, and Ethiopia when the United States did not recognize the seizure by force. But it differed from them in that the American ambassador, J. Drexel Biddle, Jr., will remain near the Polish government. In the other cases, the diplomatic envoys were withdrawn.

On the high seas, there were two important incidents. In an unprecedented case, a high-ranking German naval officer informed the United States that the steamer *Iroquois*, carrying 584 passengers, would be sunk. The implication was the British would sink the vessel in order to gain sympathy for the Allies by charging it was the victim of a German submarine. Some held the report might be true, others that it was a clever move in which the Germans would sink the vessel and blame it on England. To take no chances, President

Roosevelt dispatched a naval and Coast Guard convoy to escort the ship to this country. While the convoy was busy with its task, it was learned that the Federal Bureau of Investigation was delving into reports that machinery on the battleship *Arizona* had been damaged as the result of sabotage.

More maneuvering appeared on the diplomatic front. It was reported from Berlin that the German government would approve a peace plea by President Roosevelt. But it appeared unlikely that Britain and France would accept such proposals at this time, and most persons thought that President Roosevelt would not issue a plea unless it were sure of being accepted.

American Opinion

The latest American Institute of Public Opinion polls indicate that war has increased the sentiment for a third term by President Roosevelt. Polls taken since the war began, also show that an increasing majority of people in this country desire a change in the neutrality law. Here is a comparison of the present opinion on these vital issues with the sentiment prior to the outbreak of war:

In May the voters were asked, "If President Roosevelt runs for a third term, will you vote for him?" At that time, 33 per cent said yes; 67 per cent, no. By August, when the question was asked again, 40 per cent said yes; 60 per cent, no. This month 43 per cent of the voters said yes; 57 per cent, no. But another question was asked this month: "If the war is still going on next year, and if Roosevelt runs for a third term, would you vote for him?" A tally of the replies showed that 52 per cent of the voters would vote for Roosevelt under these circumstances, while only 48 per cent would oppose him.

Soundings taken of the sentiment toward the neutrality law reveal that the trends of

opinion are constantly shifting. The question which has been asked (with some variations) is, "Should Congress change the Neutrality Law so that the United States could sell war materials to England and France?" In April 57 per cent of the voters said yes; 43 per cent, no. By September 4, opinion was equally divided; 50 per cent, yes, and 50 per cent, no.

Later in September, however, but before President Roosevelt spoke on the opening day of the special session of Congress, 57 per cent of the voters declared the law should be changed while 43 per cent opposed any change. Shortly after his speech, the number favoring a revision of the law had increased to 62 per cent; only 38 per cent continued to oppose.

Supreme Court

Only eight justices, garbed in long, black robes, were present when the Supreme Court began its fall session on October 2. The ninth chair was vacant; Justice Butler has been seriously ill. But the others participated in the formalities of setting the judicial wheels in motion for another term. There are busy days ahead for the justices, who must decide the issues of 450 cases. In some instances, they will rule that a case does not come within their jurisdiction. In a great many others, however, they will listen to the arguments and hand down their opinions.

After the first day's session, seven of the justices paid a call on President Roosevelt. Justice McReynolds did not accompany the group. For years, the White House visit on opening day has been the traditional way of letting the President know that the court is in session. From 1935 until this fall, however, President Roosevelt has been out of town when the visits would have occurred.

Everglades

Nearly 50 years ago a group of men explored the Everglades in Florida. They discovered a rich, swampy soil, built up for millions of years by vegetation which had grown luxuriantly, then died, adding to the dirt's fertility. The state later built levees, dug 440 miles of canals to drain the swamps, and reclaimed over 300,000 acres of land. Nearly 11 million dollars went into the project. When it was finished, the newly created farm land returned heavy yields of sugar cane, tomatoes, potatoes, strawberries, beans, and many winter-grown vegetables.

But some of the drainage will have to be undone. In recent years, the soil—heavy with peat and muck—has dried out. Vast areas are inflammable; already fires have destroyed about 40 million dollars' worth of potential farm land. It is now necessary to drain water back to the land from time to time. Farmers



THE SITUATION REMAINS ABOUT THE SAME
HERBLOCK IN PONCA CITY (OKLA.) NEWS

can continue to raise their crops, but they must flood the fields which are too dry as a precaution against fire burning their soil.

42-Hour Week

This is the first week that it is illegal for an employer to work his employees longer than 42 hours without paying them "time and a half" for every extra hour. Another provision of the Wage and Hour Act goes into effect at midnight tonight, after which time the minimum wage that may be paid the millions of workers covered by the act is raised from 25 to 30 cents. These rulings were announced the week before last by Elmer F. Andrews, administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the Department of Labor. The maximum workweek up to this time has been 44 hours since October 24, 1938, when the first provisions of the act became effective. The phrase "time and a half" means one and a half times the regular hourly wage, or a minimum of 45 cents.

Jobs for Youth

Since the Junior Employment Services of the National Youth Administration were set up in March 1936, they have found jobs in private industry for nearly a quarter of a million young people, according to a recent statement. Although employment is slack in the summer, 8,326 placements were made in August, the last month for which figures are available. The Services operate in cooperation with state employment services, but in September special employment agencies for youth were set up in 144 cities through the work of the NYA. A total of 548,847 young job-hunters have registered for positions in the last three years, and of this group 63 per cent were between 18 and 21 years of age and 11 per cent between 21 and 25. One per cent were college graduates, and 45 per cent high school graduates.

Naval Radio Service

Now that many of our diplomats abroad are in a sense isolated, and in several cases unable to receive instructions by telephone, the State Department is making use of the Naval Communication Service, which was set up in 1916 as a result of similar circumstances. Every day consuls and ministers in the farthest corners of the globe receive a 2,500-word digest of world news, ranging from notes on the European situation to Saturday football scores and daily baseball games. The first of these emergency diplomatic broadcasts was President Roosevelt's neutrality declaration, which was transmitted by the giant antennae atop the Navy Department and relayed to remote posts by Navy vessels. Since its inauguration, however, all the departments and agencies of the government have been making liberal use of this service, and more than 26,000,000 words were filed in Washington last year.



NEW YORK BUILDS A GREAT AIRPORT

The North Beach Airport, situated on Long Island on the outskirts of New York City, is nearing completion. Erected with WPA funds it will be one of the largest and most complete airports in the nation. The view above is of some of the hangars.

Home and Abroad

Are Doing, Saying, and Thinking

FOREIGN

Declaration of Panama

Acting with considerably greater speed than that which usually characterizes Pan-American discussions, the special neutrality conference at Panama City approved on October 2 a declaration designed to ensure the continued neutrality of this hemisphere. Known as the Declaration of Panama, this program confines itself for the most part to a reaffirmation of accepted principles of international law, leaving each of the 21 republics to its own inter-

they were advised to sign without delay. If Stalin did not use force, as Peter used it, the threat was no less implied.

As Russia marched step by step down the east Baltic coast, turning that sea from a German into a Russian lake, Germans looked on with misgivings. Last week, when it became known that the Red Army was planning to occupy and fortify the Lithuanian-German border, the misgivings swelled to open anxiety.

This anxiety has not been decreased by the fact that Russia is now bringing pressure to bear upon a fourth Baltic state—Finland, nor by the fact that the Finnish government is reported to have appealed to Sweden and Germany for support. That either Germany or Sweden would venture to lend any aid to Finland against Russia at this juncture seems doubtful, although it is known that Sweden is greatly perturbed by the proximity of Russia's new Baltic bases to Stockholm, and her own centers.

Peace Offensive

The first gun in Europe's so-called "peace offensive" was fired by Reichsfuehrer Hitler recently, when, in a long speech to the Reichstag, he called upon the Allies to lay down their arms and accept a peace which would recognize all his conquests to date. His proposals suggested an exchange of minorities among the states of eastern Europe; the



AFTER SWALLOWING THE CANARY
DARLING IN N. Y. HERALD-TRIBUNE

pretation and its own manner of dealing with such neutrality problems as arise.

Considerable controversy has been stirred, however, by one provision which departs from accepted international law to the extent of declaring a wide, neutral "safety zone" to exist around both Americas, excluding Canada. This neutral zone stretches, on an average, 300 miles out to sea. In some places it reaches 700 miles, taking in virtually all the Caribbean, and all sea lanes between various ports in the Americas. Since no joint naval patrol has been set up to enforce the neutrality of this zone, the actual meaning of the declaration is not clear and it is difficult to see how it can be rendered effective.

Russia on the Baltic

Although Peter the Great required 21 years (1700-1721) to establish Russia on the east coast of the Baltic Sea, his modern counterpart and admirer, Josef Stalin, seemed well on his way to accomplishing as much in as many days, last week. One after another the foreign ministers of the three small, defenseless Baltic states had been called to Moscow and presented with virtual ultimatums which

establishment of a small Polish state acceptable to Germany; a solution of the "Jewish problem"; minor border revisions to ensure Germany and other states of ample "living space"; a joint guarantee of all new boundaries; and general disarmament. This accomplished, Herr Hitler asserted, he would have no further territorial demands in Europe, although he hinted that he would be pleased if Great Britain and France would return the colonies lost by Germany in the last war.

Because all these proposals were extremely vague, because they offered no concessions on



GREAT BRITAIN SWEEPS THE SEAS

British mine sweepers, working in coveys, are the busiest craft in European waters these days. The vessels take up a position in an area suspected of having mines hidden below the surface. Paravines are put to work, cutting cables which hold the mines in position and causing the deadly charges to emerge on the surface. Sharpshooters then promptly explode the mines and buoys are put over the side to inform sea commerce that the shipping lane is free of mines.

the part of Germany, because they failed to offer a reconstruction of Czechoslovakia or reparation for the damage done to Poland, and because Hitler's verbal assurances and promises have been broken with such unflinching regularity in the past, London and Paris greeted these latest proposals with frigid disfavor.

But Hitler's speech confronted the Allies with the necessity of doing something more than rejecting it. The fact was that he had asked for peace, and outlined his terms, while the Allies had not. This tended to give him considerable moral advantage both in Germany and in neutral states. It seemed probable that as a result of this the British government would shortly undertake to do what liberal British opinion has long been urging it to do—to outline the terms of a liberal and dignified peace which, while ending aggression and armament races in Europe, could be accepted with honor by the German people.

Balkan Peace

While most of Europe continued to toss upon stormy waters last week, Hungary, Rumania, and Yugoslavia surprised a number of capitals by announcing out of a clear sky that they had agreed to withdraw the armed forces they have been holding at one another's frontiers, and effect a substantial demobilization. Interpreted to mean that Hungary has decided to abandon her territorial claims against Rumania, this act was apparently sponsored by Yugoslavia. The Yugoslavs felt that the continued state of mobilization was working the financial ruin of all Balkan states. They felt also that any war which might start between Hungary and Rumania would undoubtedly be finished in a most appalling fashion by Germany, Russia, or both.

It is now reported also that the Soviets have expressed a willingness to drop their demands on Rumania for a return of Bessarabia. If this is true, it would seem that the three-party pact may be expanded to

establish a neutral Balkan confederation which would also include Greece and Bulgaria, and perhaps Turkey. The Turks could at any rate be counted upon to support such a neutral bloc if for no other reason than to keep Russia and Germany at a distance. Italy is also actively supporting the Balkan neutrality movement because she is anxious to keep Russia out of the Balkans.

Sea of Death

From the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem a white, dusty road winds and twists in a tortuous, easterly course through Gethsemane, Bethany, and then 4,300 feet down through a desolate, rock-strewn waste to a body of water nearly 50 miles long, and from three to nine miles in width. The water itself is bitter with salt. No fish swim beneath the surface, and few—if any—birds fly over it. The almost insufferable heat in this region, the silence and rocky wastes on all sides, have earned for this salty lake the name it has borne since Biblical times—the Dead Sea.

During the past eight years the Dead Sea has come to life. A few health resorts now dot its shores. The age-long silence is broken occasionally by a motorboat. Most important of all, however, are the large engineering projects in progress at its northern and southern ends. Engineers have discovered that there is enormous wealth in the waters of this sea, and ever since 1930 an English-Jewish financial syndicate has been extracting the mineral content of its waters by slow evaporation processes.

The chief products of these waters are potash and bromine. This is the only potash produced in the British Empire, and thus frees the British from the necessity of depending upon Alsace and Germany for their supply of this mineral. More than 700 workers are now employed in extracting wealth from the Dead Sea. Engineering experts have estimated that these waters contain 42,000,000,000 tons of minerals.

Leaflet Bombs

Great Britain's airplane pilots have by now dumped tons of propaganda leaflets on Germany. The German people are being told over and over that the war is not against them, but against their leaders. These leaflets, however, are not scattered hit or miss from the great altitudes at which the English planes must fly. It is reported on good authority that the English army is using harmless bombs to release the messages.

Because such military secrets are carefully guarded, the exact nature of these bombs is not known. However, they are constructed to hold hundreds of leaflets. From a height of approximately 18,000 feet, the pilot releases the bomb, which is timed to explode when it gets within about 3,000 feet of the ground. It is necessary to employ such a device because the planes must fly high enough to avoid being shot down. But if a pilot were to turn the leaflets loose at that altitude, the sheets of paper might blow far away from their intended target.



RUSSIAN ASSISTANCE
RAY IN KANSAS CITY STAR

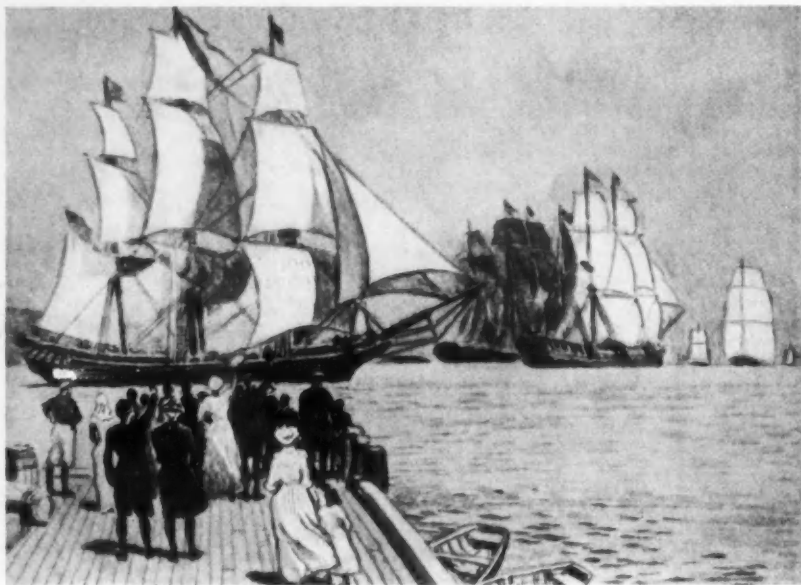


WOMEN AND THE WAR

Tragedy, direct or implied, bears heavily upon the women of nations at war. At the left we see an English mother and her children at the door of an air-raid shelter which, in an attempt at wartime humor, has been labeled "Home Sweet Home." In the center, a Polish peasant woman stands amidst the shambles of her bomb-wrecked home and prays. At the right, German women, mobilized to work in the factories and in the fields are taught German history and Nazi politics after hours.



ACME AND INT'L NEWS



AMERICAN SHIPS SAILING AFTER REPEL OF THE EMBARGO IN 1809

Historical Backgrounds

By David S. Muzzey and Paul D. Miller

Embargo, Neutrality, and the War of 1812

MANY of the issues confronting the special session of Congress which is now meeting in Washington are reminiscent of those which confronted the United States during the period of the wars of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic era. It must be remembered that during a large part of the time between the second administration of George Washington and that of James Madison, when the War of 1812 took place, England and France were at war. Only intermittent periods of peace,



DAVID S. MUZZEY

in the nature of armed truces, broke up this long period of European wars. During these wars, especially during those of the Napoleonic period, the interests of the United States were vitally affected, as they were later during the World War and as they are likely to be if the present war in Europe continues. Moreover, before war actually broke out between this country and Great Britain in 1812, relations between the United States and both belligerents had on several occasions reached the breaking point, because of the difficulties encountered over our rights as neutrals to carry on trade. From April 22, 1793, when Washington issued his proclamation of neutrality, until the War of 1812 broke out, various devices were used to keep the country out of war and to protect its neutral rights.

Interference with Trade

By the end of 1793, hundreds of American vessels had been captured by both the French and the British in their war on the seas. With the passing of each year of the war, the restrictions upon neutral trade became more severe. Napoleon, unable to bring England to terms by means of a direct invasion or defeat on the seas, adopted the method of a continental blockade; that is, he undertook to prevent any British ship from entering a continental port. England retaliated by placing new restrictions upon neutral trade. Each side claimed that it was acting in self-defense since the other had completely disregarded the rules of international law.

Each time the British issued an Order in Council, Napoleon replied with one of his famous decrees. On their part, the British commanded that all neutral ships, destined to a continental port from which British ships were excluded, must first stop at a British port. In effect, this meant that practically all ships destined for any European port must first call at a British

port, since Napoleon's continental blockade affected a large part of the continent. Having issued his Berlin Decree, which placed the British Isles under blockade, Napoleon retaliated by issuing the Milan Decree, by which every neutral ship which submitted to the British terms was ordered confiscated.

Policy of Embargo

Under these circumstances, there were only three choices open to the United States. It could mildly submit to the British and Napoleonic decrees; it could undertake to enforce its neutral rights (which would undoubtedly have involved it in war with one of the belligerents), or it could abandon the seas. Of these three possibilities the United States chose the third. It embarked upon a policy of commercial nonintercourse, embodied in the Embargo Act of 1807. From December 1807 to March 1809, when the Embargo Act was repealed, all trade between the United States and foreign nations ceased. It had been the idea of Thomas Jefferson that this weapon would serve as a substitute for war and would accomplish a two-fold objective. In the first place, it would inflict such serious economic damage upon the belligerents by depriving them of raw materials and by closing American markets to them that they would be compelled to surrender. In the second place, the embargo would prevent the United States from going to war over neutral rights.

The only noticeable effect of the embargo was practically to ruin the United States economically. It did not result in inducing the belligerents to lift their hated restrictions upon American trade, and while it may have contributed toward keeping the United States out of war for a time, ultimate conflict was not averted. Later attempts were made to bring pressure upon the belligerents by authorizing the stoppage of trade with the one which failed to lift its restrictions upon neutral commerce, and contrariwise by permitting trade with the belligerent which removed its restrictions.

Napoleon snapped at this opportunity to deal another blow at the English. He declared that after November 1, 1810, the Berlin and Milan Decrees would be revoked—"it being understood that the English are to revoke their Orders in Council." As a matter of fact, Napoleon did not revoke the decrees; but he had driven a further wedge between England and America. John Quincy Adams had warned President Madison that Napoleon's act was "a trap to catch us into a war with England." When the English did finally revoke their Orders in Council it was too late, because, before word reached this country, war had been declared against Great Britain.

Personalities in the News

WHEN Congress convened in special session, the lean, blunt, somewhat irritable statesman who had written the Neutrality Act made one of his rare speeches. He endorsed the President's stand and urged repeal of the embargo. Key Pittman, senior senator from Nevada, is commonly thought to be the President's yes-man, but actually he has strong ideas of his own on foreign affairs, and there can be no doubt that he was speaking for himself as well as the White House in his keynote speech. Indeed, since he is one of the few men whom the President consults on the matter of foreign relations, many believe he has had a hand in shaping the administration's policy. When Mr. Roosevelt was still assistant secretary of the navy, Pittman was defending the League of Nations on the floor of the Senate. He believed then and still believes that "we cannot afford not to take part in the world in which we live." In his life there has been no room for complacent isolation.

Pittman was born in Vicksburg in 1872. His family were well-to-do plantation owners, and he was related through his mother to the author of the national anthem. He was privately tutored and sent to Tennessee to college and law school, but at 20 he caught the "western fever," and, taking his gun and a few law books, he was off to hunt elk in Seattle. He lost his fortune in real estate speculation, and so followed the gold rush north to the Klondike and then to Alaska. He found no gold but many an honest miner, whose claims were being disputed by shrewd capitalists and their crooked lawyers. The tale of Pittman's legal battles on the side of justice reads like a melodrama, and it is said that Jack London made more money writing about them than Pittman did fighting them.

Pittman moved to Nevada in 1902 when word came of the gold strike in Tenopah, and has since made a fortune in mining and telephone interests. He continued in the law until he was the nation's outstanding defender of mining interests. As such he was sent to the Senate in 1912 to fill a vacancy caused by death, and he has been four times re-elected on the Democratic ticket. When Nevada became the "Silver State," he became leader of the silver bloc in Congress, and seniority made him chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee when Mr. Roosevelt took office.

Because of his birth, southern senators regard Pittman as one of themselves, but he has long been divorced from the refinements of plantation life. There is something of the frontiersman about him. When he speaks, which is seldom, he minces no words; he speaks heatedly, recklessly, often inadvisedly. Like his fellow committeeman, Senator Borah of Idaho, Pittman has never been to Europe, but he does not agree with Borah on neutrality. "If we are willing to give up enough of honor and material advantage for the sake of avoiding trouble," he believes we can stay out of war. And in that sentence are the germs of the restrictions written into the proposed Neutrality Act amendment.



KEY PITTMAN

ONE of the most influential figures in England today is a man whose name is little known to the British public, and whose power is out of all proportion to the rather vague position he holds—chief industrial adviser to the government. He is Sir Horace John Wilson, a close confidant of Prime Minister Chamberlain, one whose judgment carries considerable weight in all official matters, and one who might perhaps best be described as the one-man brain trust.

There is very much of the mystery man about Sir Horace, and his influence is rendered all the more remarkable by the obstacles he had to overcome to attain it. Most high officials of the present conservative government, for instance, come of "good family." They attended such fashionable prep schools as Harrow, Rugby, or Eton; and such socially acceptable uni-



SIR HORACE WILSON

versities as Oxford or Cambridge. Then, if they went into civil service, they entered the "first class" which trains young English gentlemen for important policy-planning positions in the government.

Horace Wilson, born in 1882, did none of these things. His father dealt in furniture, and his mother ran a boarding house. Horace attended a local public school, and then the London School of Economics. When he entered British civil service, he did so unobtrusively through the "second class," the examination for which requires only a good secondary school education.

In some manner which is not clear, Wilson managed to work his way out of the second class and into a position of some influence. In 1921, the Labor government gave him the job of assisting in a plan to eliminate unemployment in England. Unemployment was not eliminated, but Wilson was promoted to the office of economic adviser to the government—a position which was not very important.

Wilson's first real chance came in 1932 when he was sent as one of a number of advisers to the British ministers in attendance at the British Empire conference at Ottawa, Canada. By hard work and tactical skill, he established himself as one of the leading British figures at that conference. Able to grasp the intricacies of high finance more quickly than the British ministers, he carried the brunt of the British delegation's activities. As a result, the then prime minister, Stanley Baldwin, came to rely upon Wilson for advice, and the same has been even more true of his successor, Mr. Chamberlain. In 1937 he was decorated by the King, and became henceforth Sir Horace Wilson. A year later he touched the high point of his career to date when he not only accompanied Mr. Chamberlain on his three visits to Reichsfuehrer Hitler, but made one official visit by himself.

Save on Sundays, when he relaxes and may be seen passing the collection box in a small Sussex church where his two daughters sing in the choir, Sir Horace works hard and long into the small hours of the morning.

. Vocational Outlook .

Engineering

THERE are five main branches of engineering in which large numbers of young men are interested: civil, electrical, mechanical, chemical, and mining and metallurgical engineering. There are further subdivisions, but most prospective engineers specialize in one of these principal branches, waiting until a later date for further specialization.

Civil engineering is concerned with the planning, construction, and maintenance of railroads, highways, bridges, tunnels, irrigation systems, canals, sewerage systems, city parks, and various kinds of private and public construction. Electrical engineering deals with the design and operation of generating plants, power transmission systems, electric railroads, radio, telephone and telegraph systems; in short, with all devices of an electrical nature. Mechanical engineering has to do with the design of manufacturing equipment, power engines, tools. The activities range "from extremely fine watchmaking and instrument design to such gross operations as locomotive building and the design of power plants."

Chemical engineering is the newest of the branches. A chemical engineer tests raw materials, experiments with the manufacture of products in which chemical reactions are involved, and in general is concerned with applying chemical principles to industry. The mining engineer tests mineral deposits and develops methods of extracting the deposits and in other ways concerns himself with mining operations. The metallurgical engineer devotes his attention to the minerals once they are extracted from the ground.

Altogether there are about a quarter of a million persons—an overwhelming majority of them men—engaged in one of these branches of engineering. Employ-

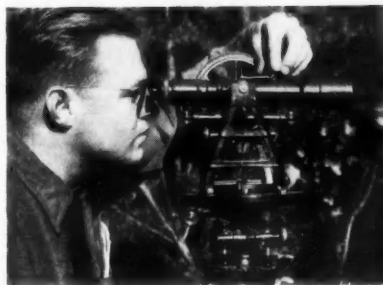
The earnings of engineers compare favorably with those of the highest-paid professions. In 1929, the earnings in all branches of engineering were unusually high, ranging from an average of below \$1,800 for the lowest 10 per cent, to above \$7,500 for the highest tenth of the profession. The middle 50 per cent earned between \$2,500 and \$6,000. By 1934, these figures were considerably lower, due to the depression, but they still compared favorably with earnings in other fields. The lowest tenth earned less than \$1,000, the highest tenth more than \$5,000, while the middle half averaged between \$1,500 and \$3,500. With the business pickup which has taken place, it is fair to assume that the earnings of engineers have increased proportionately.

Employment opportunities have been best, during recent years, for civil engineers. This is due to the fact that a large proportion of them are employed by the government in connection with the expanded building programs undertaken. In the lower brackets the earnings of civil engineers are higher than those of other engineers, but in the higher groups, they are lower. This is due to the fact that private companies pay lower salaries to beginners and higher salaries to the experienced than agencies of government do. Prospects for civil engineers seem fairly good for the future, as there is little likelihood that the type of work requiring their services will be greatly curtailed.

The other branches of engineering are more vitally affected by the ups and downs of the business cycle. A sudden slump in business almost immediately results in a shrinking of employment opportunities for engineers. The unemployment figures on engineers during the depression do not present a complete picture of the true situation, for large numbers of them were obliged to take up other types of work.

A young man should make certain that he has the necessary qualifications to become a successful engineer before embarking upon this career. He must have a first-rate mind, one that is orderly and logical. At the same time he must possess a creative urge. He must have a scientific and mathematical turn of mind, and if he does not like mathematics, science, and all related subjects, he should promptly discard the idea of becoming an engineer.

An engineering course requires four years. The first year is devoted to the general field, and the student is not obliged to select his field of specialization until the sophomore year. It would be an excellent idea to consider the first year as an experiment to determine whether one has talent in engineering. If he does not rank high among his classmates, he would do well to turn to some other field.



PSA BY MYDANS
THE CIVIL ENGINEER

ment for engineers is afforded by many different agencies, both public and private. Factories and all types of industrial concerns, public utilities, electrical companies, aviation concerns, railroads, federal, state, and local governments all employ a certain number of engineers.



A STUDENT COUNCIL

Student Councils Engage in Wide Range of Activities in High Schools

(Reprinted by request from THE AMERICAN OBSERVER of April 3, 1939)

STUDENT government in one form or another is practiced in hundreds of high schools and the movement is growing rapidly. There is a general feeling that if students are ever to become efficient in democracy they should practice it in dealing with their own affairs while they are in school.

There are many forms of student government. Quite often a student council is elected with representatives from each class. This student council is the general governing body, and it appoints committees to carry on the various activities which are undertaken.

Frequently the council handles not only many problems within the school, but it also associates itself with the councils of other schools. In a number of states, the various schools which have student government have formed state organizations, and not only are there state organizations but there is a general body known as the National Association of Student Officers. This organization holds annual meetings and recommends activities to the schools which belong to it.

The National Association of Student Officers has compiled a list of activities which are handled by the student councils in many different schools. These activities have been reported to the national organization by the local councils. More than 300 different projects, each one of which is being carried out somewhere, are included in the list. Among these projects which are engaging the attention of student councils or other student organizations in high schools the following may be mentioned. The 25 included in the list below are taken from the list of more than 300 published by the national association:

1. Carry on charity work or aid welfare organizations.
2. Raise money for scholarships or scholarship loan funds.
3. Tutor backward or failing students.
4. Collect information about colleges.
5. Publish student handbooks.
6. Help plan commencement exercises of the activity type.
7. Serve as welcoming committee for new students.
8. Run a column or section in the school newspaper.
9. Sponsor debating league.
10. Conduct campaigns for beautification of school grounds.
11. Teach and study parliamentary law.
12. Conduct book exchange.
13. Conduct drives for better school morale.
14. Organize hobby clubs in the community.
15. Conduct song-writing contests.
16. Teach better lunchroom and cafeteria manners.
17. Promote courtesy in street, automobile, theater, classroom.
18. Campaign to make the life of the school more democratic.
19. Promote proper behavior in assemblies and at public events.

20. Eliminate petty thieving, cribbing, dishonesty.
21. Arrange lecture courses and outside-talent programs.
22. Introduce students to new school activities and projects.
23. Study accident prevention and work for elimination of hazards.
24. Hold mock political conventions and model sessions of Congress.
25. Send cards to convalescent students and teachers.

Further information about the organization of student councils, the establishment and maintaining of student government in individual schools, and the projects or activities which may be carried on by local student government organizations may be obtained by writing the National Association of Student Officers, 5732 Harper Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

What Is an American?

Miss Dorothy Thompson, in her new book "Let the Record Speak," offers this definition of an American:

An American is a fellow whose grandfather was a German forty-eight years who settled in Wisconsin and married a Swede, whose mother's father married an Englishwoman, whose son met a girl at college whose mother was an Australian and whose father was a Hungarian and their son in the twentieth century right now is six feet tall, goes to a state college, plays football, can't speak a word of any known language except American, and is doubtful whether he ever had a grandfather.

- Do You Keep Up With the News? -

(For answers to the following questions, turn to page 8, column 4)

1. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution, ratified just 150 years ago, are collectively known as the _____.
2. Music lovers read of Poland's fate and think of Ignaz Paderewski, the pianist. They also think of Poland's famous composer, (a) Chopin, (b) Mozart, (c) Debussy, (d) Liszt.
3. Hiram Johnson, Gerald P. Nye, and William E. Borah have what in common?
4. The basic income tax rate in England is now 25 per cent. True or false?
5. When newspapers report that Germany is "jamming," they mean that it is (a) broadcasting swing music to cheer up the army, (b) creating static to interfere with Allied broadcasts, (c) using a liquid form of gas known as "jam," (d) resorting to mass infantry charges on the western front.
6. "Big Bill" Tilden, back in the country after three years in England, is still one of the greatest _____ players in the world.
7. *Osservatore Romano*, which trebled its circulation after one of its writers was imprisoned two months ago, is (a) an Italian-language paper in New York, (b) a Communist paper in Rome, (c) the semi-official organ of the Vatican, (d) the paper edited by Mussolini's son-in-law.
8. An English author, dear to old and young

in this country for his children's classics, among them "Winnie-the-Pooh," "When We Were Very Young," and "Now We Are Six," has just published his autobiography. Who is he?

9. The American Legion, which recently met in Chicago for its annual convention, has approximately (a) 250,000, (b) 500,000, (c) 750,000, (d) 1,000,000 members.

10. Colonel-General Werner von Fritsch, "the man who made the German army," was



reported to have been killed in action in Poland. There were grounds to believe, however, that he had (a) been shot by rebellious soldiers in an uprising, (b) committed suicide, (c) died of pneumonia, (d) been murdered at the order of the Nazi government.

11. Even if the revised Neutrality Act prohibits American vessels from carrying goods to belligerents, there is one belligerent to which the rule will not apply. Which country is that?

12. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has taken all but one of these steps to combat the spy menace in this country: (a) received \$3,000,000 of additional funds from Congress, (b) appealed for aid to police chiefs, civic organizations, and private citizens, (c) recruited 150 new G-men, (d) questioned all persons reported to be spies.

13. It is 61 years old. After the World War it lost considerable territory to Yugoslavia, Rumania, and Greece. It is now being friendly to Russia in the hope of regaining this land. What country fits this description?

14. What important meeting recently took place in Panama City?

15. When Mr. Roosevelt said in a recent public letter that "Peace, like charity, begins at home," to what was he referring?

16. Fritz Kuhn has been jailed for embezzling money from the organization of which he is the head. What is it?

17. The WPA has completed its biggest project, a \$40,000,000 airport for transcontinental and Pan American Airways flights. Where is it?

18. The Fordham-Waynesburg game on September 30 did not make football history but it will be remembered as the first game ever _____ in this country.

American Health Problem Studied

(Concluded from page 1, column 1)

ample, much bad health, lack of energy, and discouragement is the result of poor diet. Recent studies by the Bureau of Labor Statistics show that from one-third to one-half of America's population suffers from malnutrition—lack of enough of the right kind of food. Not all this malnutrition occurs among the poor. Many well-to-do families do not know how to select food properly. But the main difficulty lies in the fact that the foods which protect health are too expensive for many families to buy.

Bad housing conditions also make for a larger amount of sickness among the poor. Some diseases, like tuberculosis, are much more common in the slums than in more prosperous parts of our cities. Contagious diseases are also much more likely to spread in crowded areas. A survey of housing conditions in 64 cities in 1934 showed that nearly one-fourth of our houses were lacking normal sanitary facilities, and that from two to three per cent were, by any standard, unfit for use.

Most serious of all is the inability of persons with little money to obtain proper medical care when ill. Doctors' bills are so high that many families put off calling a doctor unless illness becomes relatively serious. Few persons outside of the well-to-do will consult doctors when they are not actually ill. This has meant that doctors have had to concentrate on the curing of sickness rather than the preventing of it.

Medical Care

A recent study in New York City revealed that families with the lowest incomes averaged only one visit from a doctor every five years. Working-class families with relatively good incomes had, on the average, about one visit a year. They also had five times as much hospital care and spent 10 times as much for dental care as the poorer families.

The United States has probably the best facilities for medical care of any country in the world. Our medical schools are excellent; our medical research unsurpassed. We have one doctor for every 800 in the population, and a hospital bed for every 130 persons. Yet from 25 per cent to 30 per cent of the serious cases of illness in our cities are uncared for. The proportion of untended cases is more than twice as large among relief families and families with low incomes as among the moderately well-to-do. It is here that our system of health protection comes farthest from being satisfactory. For those who are ill the most get the least medical attention, while those who have the least sickness get the most care.



ADEQUATE MEDICAL CARE FOR ALL WHO NEED IT IS THE GOAL, WHETHER IT IS SOUGHT UNDER ONE SYSTEM OR ANOTHER

We have all heard the expression, "It never rains but it pours." This seems to be one of the main difficulties in connection with doctors' bills. In any one year most families will spend very little for medical aid. Two-fifths of our moderate-income families spend less than \$30 a year on health. But those who are hit are hit hard. A fifth of the families have bills of over \$100, and one family out of 12 has bills of over \$200, while four families out of a thousand find that their medical bills eat up half or more of their annual incomes.

Nearly everyone agrees, we said, on the need for improving America's health. It is evident that this is not solely a matter for doctors. People cannot be really healthy unless they have enough to eat of the right kind of food. Education in choice and selection of food will help make for better diets. But there are still many families in the nation who cannot afford a decent diet.

The Main Problem

The main problem, however, is to find some way to provide adequate medical care for the millions who are not, for one reason or another, getting it at present. Minor illnesses may easily be absorbed by the average family budget. But the average cost of a case of pneumonia is \$59, of a case of appendicitis \$168, and of cancer \$342.

Many families cannot begin to pay bills of this size. A great deal of medical care, therefore, has to be given free. It is estimated that one-fourth of the families in the United States pay nothing for hospital care. Most doctors find it necessary to give a considerable portion of their time to charity cases. As a result it is not always the very poor but those of moderate

means who suffer most from inadequate medical attention.

A number of doctors feel that an extension of free work is the best way of keeping America healthy. They insist that no one should hesitate to ask for medical aid simply because he is poor and that doctors are glad to fit their fees to the pocketbooks of their patients. If the false pride which keeps people from consulting doctors could be overcome by education, they argue, full medical services could be made available for every American.

Insurance Plans

For the average family which has a little, but not much, money, it would help if something could be worked out so that the cost of sickness did not fall all at one time. Several schemes of this sort have been developed within recent years. In a number of cities doctors have organized clinics which offer a complete health service for a regular monthly fee, usually around \$2 a month. A similar plan for hospital care is in operation in more than 60 cities. Some 4,000,000 Americans and their dependents are now assured such hospital care as they may need by paying 50 to 85 cents a month per person.

Plans such as these are valuable in enabling a family to protect itself against the costs of unexpected sickness, and as a means of assuring first-class medical attention. But experience has shown that many families will not safeguard themselves against sickness unless they have to. When families do not have enough to eat or a decent house to live in, they naturally hesitate to set aside even a few dollars for sickness which they hope will never overtake them. The result is that voluntary schemes such as the above help only a relatively small group, usually those who need help the least. It is for this reason that every country in Europe has adopted a system of compulsory health insurance. In return for regular weekly payments, the government provides not only free medical service but money payments to make up for wages lost during sickness.

Although there are many problems to be solved and many differences of opinion on the best course to follow, there is agreement on essentials. In the summer of 1938 a National Health Conference was held in Washington to study this problem. It was attended by some 200 representatives of women's clubs, labor unions, farmers' organizations, together with leading physicians, social workers, and public health experts. A five-point health program was presented by a government committee, appointed by the President, and was generally accepted. The five planks follow:

1. Expansion of our public health, maternal, and child health services with a special emphasis on preventing sickness.
2. Extension of hospital facilities, especially in small towns in the rural areas where free or low-cost service is practically unobtainable.

3. Provision for medical care at public expense for the one-third of the population unable to pay for adequate private care.

4. Measures for spreading the cost of medical care, either by state systems of health insurance, or by the extension of state medical services with the aid of federal money.

5. Insurance against the loss of wages during sickness.

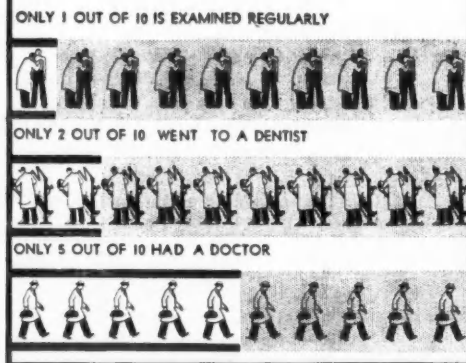
This program, except for item 4, has met with general approval from physicians and others interested in improving public health. On item 4 there is still a sharp difference of opinion. The American Medical Association is on record as opposing a system of compulsory health insurance which would put medical care partially under government control. It would rely on voluntary cooperation between physicians and the government to stamp out preventable diseases. A plan has been worked out for a nation-wide campaign of this type.

Either plan could conceivably work. America has the facilities to eliminate a large part of its present sickness. It needs only the will to do it. And it can be done only through the fullest cooperation between the public and the medical profession.

Questions and References

1. What is the estimated annual cost of sickness in the United States to families with incomes of less than \$2,500?
2. Cite examples showing the direct relationship between sickness and income.
3. What is meant by compulsory health insurance? by voluntary insurance?
4. What were the main features of the program outlined by the National Health Conference of 1938?
5. In your opinion, what measures should be adopted in this country best to insure the health of the American people?

LESS THAN HALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE IN THE U.S. RECEIVED ANY MEDICAL CARE LAST YEAR



(From a chart in "Doctors, Dollars, and Disease," published by the Public Affairs Committee.)

6. What is the American Medical Association and what position has it taken on the issue of compulsory health insurance?

REFERENCES: (a) Now They Are Ahead of the Public, by D. W. Orr and J. W. Orr. *Survey Graphic*, February 1938, pp. 83-85. (b) Toward a National Program for Medical Care, by M. Sandison. *National Education Association Journal*, October 1938, pp. 215-216. (c) Realities of Socialized Medicine, by H. E. Sigerist. *The Atlantic*, June 1939, pp. 794-804. (d) Health for the Millions, by J. Rorty. *Current History*, April 1939, pp. 26-29. (e) American Medicine and the People's Health. *Hygeia*, April 1938, p. 299.

Answer Keys

Do You Keep Up With the News?

1. Bill of Rights; 2. (a); 3. They are "isolationist" senators; 4. False. It is 37½ per cent; 5. (b); 6. tennis; 7. (c); 8. A. A. Milne; 9. (d); 10. (d); 11. Canada; 12. (d); 13. Bulgaria; 14. the special Pan-American Conference; 15. the present controversy between labor organizations; 16. the German-American Bund; 17. North Beach, New York City; 18. televised.

Vocabulary Quiz

1. (c) amenities.
2. (d) impecunious.
3. (c) mollify.
4. (d) cauterizing.
5. (b) bodkin.

PRONUNCIATIONS: Paderewski (pah-deh-ref'skee), Chopin (sho-pan-o as in go), Debussy (duh-bue-see), Werner von Fritsch (vair'ner fon' fritch').

Smiles

Then there was the atlas publisher who pulled a boner in his map of Europe and waited for it to come true.

—SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE

First Golfer: "The traps on this course are very annoying."

Second Golfer (trying to putt): "Yes; will you please close yours?"

—SELECTED

Streetcar Conductor: "This transfer has expired, madam."

Woman: "Well, no wonder, with the air so bad in here."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL



"MY BRAKES AIN'T SO GOOD, BESSIE—GET READY TO LASSO A STUMP."

—ELLER IN COLLIER'S

Waiter: "There hasn't been much stirring around this cafe."

Diner: "Why not?"

Waiter: "Somebody stole all the spoons."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL

Some gulls were following a ferry boat.

An Irishman said, "Nice flock of pigeons."

"Those are gulls," insisted a tourist.

"Well," replied the Irishman, "gulls or boys, they're a fine flock of pigeons."

—THE PEPPER BOX

Chief of Police: "Can you give me a description of your missing bookkeeper?"

Merchant: "He was about five feet, five inches tall, and \$7,000 short."

—LABOR

"How did you lose your job at the dress shop, my dear?"

"Just because of something I said. After I had tried 20 dresses on a woman, she said, 'I think I'd look nicer in something flowing,' and so I asked her why she didn't go jump in the river."

—FROTH

Closer to the truth than he meant to be was the schoolboy who wrote on an examination paper: "The Armistice was signed on the 11th of November in 1918 and since then every year there has been two minutes' peace."

—Neal O'Hara in New York EVENING POST